

We recommend that the definition of "rural area" be limited to areas classified as "non-entitlement areas" by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. "Non-entitlement areas" are cities with populations of less than 50,000, and counties with populations of less than 200,000. Some entitlement cities have a population of less than 50,000 (cities that are designated as central cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas) and should be excluded from the definition of "rural area."